AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 3 and 13 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 5-12, 14, 16-18, 22-28 and 31-38 were previously canceled. Claims 40-48 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 and 4 are amended. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

1. (Currently amended.) A method for identifying and isolating a gene of interest from a gene library, wherein the gene encodes a polypeptide carrying a signal sequence for secretion or partial secretion, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a genomic DNA library or a cDNA library;

(b) inserting into said library a DNA fragment comprising a transposon and a promoterless and secretion signal-less polynucleotide encoding a secretion reporter; wherein said inserting of said DNA fragment into said library is by in vitro transposition;

(c) introducing the library comprising the inserted DNA fragment into a host cell;

(d) screening for and selecting a host cell that secretes or partially secretes the active secretion reporter;

(e) identifying the gene of interest into which the secretion reporter was inserted in the selected host cell, by sequencing the DNA flanking the inserted DNA fragment; and

(f) isolating the complete sequence of the gene of interest identified in step (e).

2. (Original.) The method of claim 1, wherein the complete gene of interest in step (f) is isolated from the library of step (a).

3. (Canceled.)

4. (Currently amended.) The method of claim 1, wherein the [[cDNA]] genomic DNA library or the cDNA library is normalized.

Claims 5 – 14 (Canceled.)

15. (Original.) The method of claim 1, wherein the DNA fragment comprises an origin of replication which is functional in the host cell.

Claims 16-18 (Canceled.)

19. (Original.) The method of claim 1, wherein the secretion reporter is a protein which, when secreted from the host cell, allows said cell to grow in the presence of a substance which otherwise inhibits growth of said cell.

20. (Original.) The method of claim 19, wherein the secretion reporter is a β-lactamase or an invertase.

21. (Original.) The method of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide of the DNA-fragment of step (b) encodes a secretion reporter carrying an N-terminal peptide linker which comprises a specific target site for proteolytic cleavage.

Claims 22-28 (Canceled.)

29. (Original.) The method of claim 1, wherein the sequencing step of step (e) is performed using at least one primer directed to the DNA fragment , or using at least one primer directed to a vector in which the DNA library or cDNA library is cloned.

30. (Original.) The method of claim 1, where isolating the complete gene of interest is done utilizing the DNA sequence information obtained in the sequencing step of step (e).

Claims 31-38 (Canceled.)

39. (Original.) The method of claim 1, further comprising constructing an expression system

which comprises the complete gene of interest isolated in step (f)

40. (Withdrawn) A gene of interest, wherein said gene is isolated by the method of claim 1.

41. (Withdrawn) The gene of interest of claim 40, wherein the gene is isolated from a gene library.

42. (Withdrawn) An enzyme encoded by a gene of interest of claim 40.

43. (Withdrawn) An expression system comprising a gene of interest of claim 40.

44. (Withdrawn) A host cell comprising an expression system of claim 43.

45. (Withdrawn) A host cell comprising at least two chromosomally integrated copies of a gene of interest of claim 40.

46. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a polypeptide comprising cultivating a host cell of claim 44 under conditions suitable for expressing a gene of interest, wherein said host cell secretes a polypeptide encoded by said gene into the growth medium.

47. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 46, wherein the polypeptide is an enzyme.

48. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 46, further comprising purifying the polypeptide.